



From the Director of Victim Services

January 2021 marks the seventeenth National Stalking Awareness Month (NSAM), an annual call to action to recognize and respond to this traumatic and dangerous crime. It is critical to raise the issue of stalking as its own form of violence as well as a crime that frequently predicts and co-occurs with physical and sexual assault. Stalking impacts over 1 in 6 women and 1 in 17 men in the United States; yet, despite the prevalence and impacts, many victims, service providers, criminal justice professionals, and members of the general public underestimate

its danger and urgency.

Stalking is defined as a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that causes fear. Many stalking victims are followed, approached, monitored, and/or threatened, including through various forms of technology. Victims and survivors often suffer anxiety, social dysfunction, and severe depression as a result of their victimization, and many lose time from work and/or relocate. Stalking is a terrifying and psychologically harmful crime in its own right as well as a predictor of potentially lethal violence: 1 in 5 stalkers use weapons to threaten or harm victims, and stalking increased the risk of intimate partner homicide by three times.

Stalking is a crime in all 50 states, the U.S. Territories, the District of Columbia, tribal lands and in the military justice system - but can be difficult to recognize and prosecute in a system designed to respond to singular incidents rather than the series of acts that constitute stalking.

NSAM's theme of "Know It. Name It. Stop It." is a call to action for everyone across the country. While police and victim-serving professionals are critical, the reality is that the vast majority of victims tell friends or family about the stalking first. Responding with empathy and connecting victims to resources is key.

Tamika Dobbins

January 2021

Inside this issue:

Stalking Awareness Month

Victim Services Highlight

Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Announcements

Victim Services Mission

To support victims, their families, and the laws that protect their rights, while utilizing recognized principles of offender behavioral change to help reduce the risk of repeat criminal behavior.

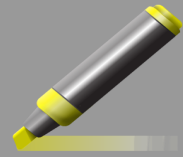
Victim Services Provides:

- Information regarding the status of offenders in prison with felony convictions
- Registration for victim notification
- Assistance with threats, unwanted calls/correspondence from an offender

Victim Services Activities:

- Community education programs
- Coordination with the Board of Parole, Attorney General's Office, and the Tennessee District Attorney General's Office to respond to victims' concerns
- Education to TDOC staff to increase awareness of victims' issues
- Collaboration with other victim advocates

Victims Services Highlights....Let's meet

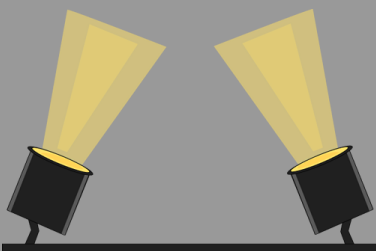


Kevin Karas was born and raised in Soddy Daisy, TN. He graduated from Berean Academy, a private Christian school in Hixson, TN in 2003. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from University of Tennessee and Tennessee Tech. University in May 2017. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 2009-2014 as an engineer on a patrol vessel in Maine and New Jersey.

Kevin started with the Tennessee Department of Correction in August 2017 as a probation/parole officer. He also serves at the Victim Coordinator for District 30 in the Chattanooga office.

Kevin is passionate about working with crime victims. He states, "when I was introduced to the job requirements, I knew it would be a good fit for me with my soft heart towards victims". He also enjoys setting up the Chattanooga National Crime Victims' Rights Week annual event honoring the crime victims of Hamilton County, TN.

Thank you Kevin for all you do on behalf of crime victims in Tennessee.



National Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked worldwide – including right here in the United States. It can happen in any community and victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality. Traffickers might use violence, manipulation, or false promises of well-paying jobs or romantic relationships to lure victims into trafficking situations.

Language barriers, fear of their traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement frequently keep victims from seeking help, making human trafficking a hidden crime.

Traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to lure their victims and force them into labor or commercial sexual exploitation. They look for people who are susceptible for a variety of reasons, including psychological or emotional vulnerability, economic hardship, lack of a social safety net, natural disasters, or political instability. The trauma caused by the traffickers can be so great that many may not identify themselves as victims or ask for help, even in highly public settings.

If you believe you are the victim of a trafficking situation or have information about a potential trafficking situation, contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Specialists are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year. Report a tip or request services using the following means:

Toll-free: 888-373-7888

TTY: 711

Text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733)



TDOC Central Office Monthly Stats

Telephone Calls	December	Notifications	December
Phone calls Received/Returned	134	Registrations/Voice	82
Parties Registered for Notifications (phone/mail/fax/email)	103	Movement	44
Harassment/Threats/No Contact	3	Advance Release	1191
Referrals	20	Final Release *	61
Release/Parole Inquiry	72	Death	18
Other	36	Other	6






Announcements



**WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?
"BUILDING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS"**

A PANEL DISCUSSION IN RECOGNITION OF
FEBRUARY AS NATIONAL TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Panelists Include:

Alex Damiano  Sexual Assault Center	Shan Foster  YWCA	Terry Love  Dept. of Health	Lizzie Rice  TN Coalition	Samantha Strader  TN Coalition
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#TDVAM2021

**Thursday, February 11, 2021
7:00 P.M. CST
TN Coalition's Facebook Live
<https://www.facebook.com/tncoalition>**

Hosted by TN Coalition and Sexual Assault Center


Please contact Renea Satterwhite (615) 532-7768 renea.satterwhite@tn.gov with any questions


National Crime Victims' Rights Week will be commemorated April 18-24, 2021 and the theme—*Support Victims. Build Trust. Engage Communities.*—emphasizes the importance of leveraging community support to help victims of crime.


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With #TeamTDOC!**
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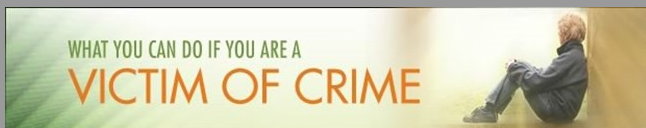
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WHAT VICTIMS CAN DO IF THEY'RE A

Tennessee Domestic Violence Hotline - 800-356-6767

National Domestic Violence Hotline - 800.799.SAFE

Battered Women's Justice Project - 800.903.0111

Mothers Against Drunk Driving - 877.MADD.HELP

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children - 800.843.5678

Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline—1-855-558-6484

National Human Trafficking Hotline - 888.373.7888

Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund - 615.741.2734

Tennessee Department of Correction

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